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CENTRAL AMERICA
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LEHRER: There were two stunning votes tonight, one in the U.S. Senate condemning the use of CIA funds in the mining of Nicaraguan seaports, the other in the state of Pennsylvania, in favor of Walter Mondale over Gary Hart and Jesse Jackson. The Senate vote was 84-to-12 in favor of a resolution by Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts. It is not binding on President Reagan or anyone else. But it puts the Senate on record as opposing any U.S. money going to, quote, 'plan, direct, execute or support the mining of the territorial waters of Nicaragua. Many Republicans, including the Republican leadership of the Senate, voted for the measure in what was reportedly a compromise reached with Kennedy, who agreed to not press for a vote on a companion measure. It condemns the administration's decision to deny World Court jurisdiction over the Nicaraguan matter. The condemnation of the U.S. position on that also came today from a familiar source but in an unusual manner. The source was the Soviet Union, but the manner was a news conference in New York by the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations. OLEG TROYVANOSKY (USSR Ambassador to UN): One cannot but be filled with a sense of wonderment, if I may put it that way, that, ah, for instance, on the, the third of April, Secretary of State Shultz, speaking before the Trilateral Commission in Washington, spoke about the need for Western countries to take pre-emptive action against international terrorism supported by, by states. And at the same time, we are faced with a problem of, or terrorism supported by the United States administration, which is making no secret of the fact that they are expanding this terrorism against Nicaragua. I repeat, I think it's a matter of wonderment.

LEHRER: Late this afternoon, White House spokesman Larry Speakes issued an angry written statement. He complained that the shrill often confusing debate distorts administration policy in Central America. The unusual statement said the U.S. does not seek to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. And Speakes denied that the United States has contingency plans to invade Nicaragua or any other country in Central America.